

Anne Gage's Beau

By CORA A. N. SORNSSEN

"Girls, look quick!" Gail sprang from her chair and ran to the window. "Isn't that Anne Gage going by? It is, as I live, Anne! Anne!" she called, thumping upon the window with all her might. Then she flew to the front door and flung it wide open.

Anne turned and her absorbed face brightened with a smile. She had not before been aware that her attention was being demanded. And Anne was always so quick to hear and see!

"Oh, is that you, Gail?" she exclaimed. She came slowly up the steps, hold out her hand. There was a gentle abstraction in her manner, a dreaminess in her face, a conscious reserve in her voice that Gail noticed without being able to define, and which was new to her. Certainly, Anne's three months of absence had changed her perceptibly.

"I'm so glad to see you," Gail said, kissing her a little breathlessly. "I did not look for you so soon. When did you come?"

"Oh, we came yesterday, father and I. But it is no sooner than we expected to come." She followed Gail into the parlor, where Fanny Leal, who was always cold, and Hilda Mains, who could never be happy at any distance from Fanny, were hovering over the radiator and eagerly awaiting her entrance.

"Oh, Anne!" They both kissed her rapturously.

"And you wrote me only two letters in all those three months," Fanny reminded her reproachfully.

"You wrote me only once, Anne," Hilda took up the complaint. "And Gail says you treated her almost as badly. Such snippy letters too! Nothing to them but beginning and ending."

"Well, now! By the beginning you knew I was alive and well, and by the ending you knew I loved you in

Anne, how lucky you are!" Hilda laughed.

"Yes, I think I am lucky," Anne said, complacently.

"I think he is lucky to get Anne," said loyal Gail.

"Oh, Gail, you are partial," Anne chided. "Wait till you see him and then you will wonder how he could ever have chosen me."

"Have you got his picture?" Fanny asked.

Anne shook her head.

"What is his name?" questioned Hilda.

"His name is Theodore Rivington Reese," Anne announced the name slowly and with becoming reverence.

"What a beautiful name!" Gail breathed. "Do you call him Teddy for short?"

"Oh, no!" Anne looked startled.

"No, indeed! Teddy would be horribly out of place—with him."

"Theodore Rivington Reese," Hilda repeated. "Why, that name might have come out of a novel! Mrs. Theodore Rivington Reese! Doesn't it sound grand?"

"Makes John Wilbur sound pretty shabby, doesn't it?" Gail queried mischievously.

"Poor John!" Anne pulled on her gloves while the girls watched her with mingled feelings of envy and interest and regret.

"Well, I must go," she rose.

"Come and see me and we'll talk it all over. You haven't said a word about yourselves."

"How could we when we were so interested in you?" Gail asked. "You are forgiven for your long neglect of us, we understand everything, now."

"I knew you would," Anne said.

"And you are happy? But of course you are!" Fanny hung upon her anxiously.

"Happy?" Anne's voice had the hush of exceeding joy. "My dears, you will never know how happy until you each find the one man for yourself."

"I suppose not," the girls said. They followed her to the door. When she had gone they returned solemnly to the radiator.

"I knew no ordinary man would get her," Gail reflected at length.

"Isn't it wonderful?" Fanny mused.

"Fate does indeed lurk in unexpected places. Anne herself never dreamed of this when she went south for her father's health. Tall and blonde and handsome and rich! Such a lucky girl!"

"She didn't say," Hilda said, a little sharply, thinking of plain good John, who had courted Anne unsuccessfully.

"I know she didn't," Gail returned, firmly. "But we all know Anne wouldn't have him if he wasn't all that and more."

Within a week the whole town was agog over Anne's unexpected engagement. And when she began to prepare for her betrothed's visit, her girl friends flocked to offer their loving service with no attempt to conceal their curiosity to see him.

As his visit was only to last three days, Anne had decided to hold a reception for him the evening of his arrival.

Theodore Rivington Reese was met at the station by a closed carriage, it being a rainy day, and of course no one caught a glimpse of him during his rapid passage to the Gage home.

Fanny, Hilda and Gail, bravely togged in fiery fresh for the occasion, went together, flushed and fluttering with excitement. As they entered the large old Gage parlor they beheld Anne standing very tall and stately in all the glory of pale yellow organdy, a fair picture surely, in the sight of all men, with her betrothed beside her.

The girls stumbled through their greetings and retired with precipitate haste to the privacy of the corner behind the winding staircase, where they clung together for some moments speechless.

"He is nearly half a head shorter!" gasped Fanny. Then, jerking her black and blue arm from Gail's unconsciously cruel grip.

"And he wears eye glasses and he is getting fat and bald, and he is every day of forty-five," wailed Hilda.

"And he keeps a hardware store," moaned Hilda.

"But she loves him!" cried Gail in vindication.

"Yes, she loves him," Fanny agreed.

"Girls, if love can do that it can do anything."

"And she might have had John Wilbur," Hilda said.

Then their solemnity gave way to hysterical giggling, which lasted until John Wilbur, who had been looking everywhere for Hilda, came peeping around the corner and inquired what was the matter.

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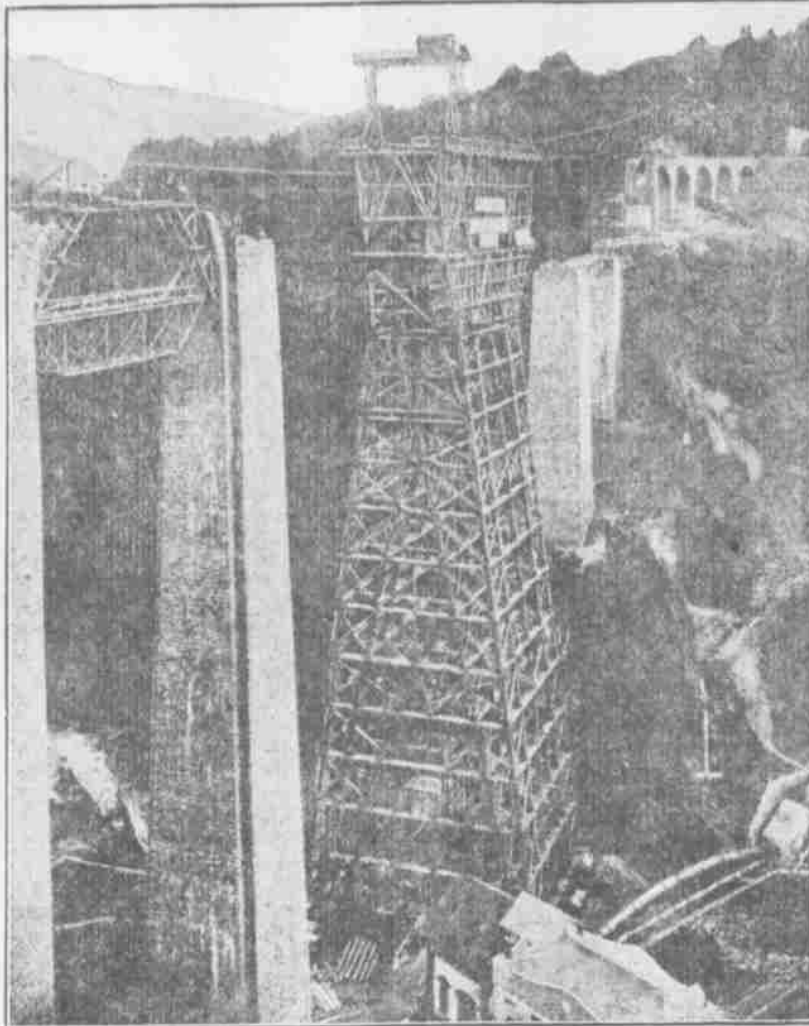
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MARVELS of THE EARTH

□ □ □ □ □ CURIOUS, ODD AND □ □ □ □ □
INTERESTING OBJECTS AND PLACES □

Triumph of Engineering



This bridge, which is being constructed across the Weisbach on the new Swiss railway line connecting Toggenburg with the Lake of Constance, is over 200 feet in height and 1,000 feet in length, and is considered one of the most wonderful works of the kind in Switzerland. Tremendous obstacles have had to be overcome in building the railway, and although the whole line is only twenty miles long, eight other viaducts, totaling a mile in length, have had to be constructed, besides several long tunnels driven through the solid rock.

PAGODA BUILT ON BOULDER

The pagoda seen in the illustration stands on the edge of a hill about 3,500 feet in height near the town of Kyaukse, Lower Burma, and is built on a large boulder which itself rests loosely on the edge of a projecting



rock. Looking at the boulder from behind, one wonders how it remains in its position at all, for it appears to be in the act of slipping off into the chasm below. The movement is rendered perceptible by fixing a bent stick under the rock, when the stick can be seen to bend and straighten slightly as the boulder is shaken by the wind. It is said by the Burmese that the boulder is only kept in its place by the hair of Buddha buried under the shrine.

People from all parts of the country come annually in the month of March to worship at this pagoda. The journey necessitates a tramp of 20 miles at least, of which ten miles is a very stiff climb, the path sometimes traversing narrow ledges of rock with steep precipices down each side, but the journey does not seem to deter numbers of both sexes and all ages from undertaking the pilgrimage. It is the custom of the Burmese to remain on top of the hill for three days, where they are accommodated in enormous flat-roofed grass huts covering every available spot on the hilltop.

Every devotee purchases a small piece of gold leaf which he pastes on the boulder or the pagoda, and either by this means or by some general scheme the whole of the boulder and of the pagoda have been covered with gold leaf.

On the little platform by the pagoda is a row of large bells, near each of which is hung a horn. The ground must be first hit with the horn so as to summon the spirits of the earth, and the bell is then struck in order to summon the spirits of the air. The spirits of the earth and of the air are then supposed to have had their attention drawn to the words about to be uttered by the worshiper.

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GIRL'S TERRIBLE ORDEAL

The story of a young woman's pluck and presence of mind while passing through a fearful experience on the railway track, in which she was forced to sacrifice her foot to save her life, comes from a country district near Bathbridge, New York.

While Miss Eleanor White was walking on the track near her home she heard the train approaching, and in her haste to step from the track her foot caught in the points, and she was unable to extricate it.

There was a moment of awful and indescribable agony as she heard the train bearing down upon her. With great presence of mind she threw her hands sideways from the track, dug her hands in some turf to keep from being dragged under the engine, and the train passed over her foot.

Her father, who was engaged in the freight yards near by, heard the screams of a woman after the train had passed. He rushed to the spot and was horrified to find his own daughter with her foot terribly mangled. Gathering her in his arms, the

father carried her home, secured a team, and drove to the nearest hospital.

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to run. Just then a passenger train rapidly approaching the crossing, shot into view. Stahl was tangled up in the lines and the rope with which he was leading the cow, and couldn't jump.

Then 25 feet from the tracks the cow reared and stuck its front legs between the spokes of a rear wheel of the buggy. The wheel slid and served as a brake. The horse was able to stop a few feet from the tracks just as the train swept past. Stahl will keep the cow.

SUR